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Letter dated 15 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith an answer given by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 15 February 2017 with regard to the surface-to-surface medium- to long-range strategic ballistic missile test-fire by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answer given by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 15 February 2017 to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency with regard to the fact that the United States and its vassal forces faulted the surface-to-surface medium- to long-range strategic ballistic missile test-fire by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The United Nations Security Council issued a press statement under the manipulation of the United States on 13 February 2017, in which it faulted the test-fire by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as a "breach of resolution" and threatened that it would take "additional crucial measures".

The recent missile test-fire conducted by the DPRK is part of the normal course which it has to go through in implementing the line of simultaneous development of the two fronts, its State line.

Respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, in his New Year Address for this year, declared that the preparations for the intercontinental ballistic rocket test-fire had reached the final phase, and, in the subsequent period, the DPRK officially clarified more than once that the measure for further bolstering its nuclear force can be taken any moment the Supreme Leader makes his decision.

The self-defensive measure is for firmly protecting the sovereignty of the country and the right to existence of the nation from the threat of nuclear war posed by the United States and its vassal forces and for reliably guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula and the security of the region.

No one is entitled to fault this legitimate right of a sovereign State.

The Security Council has long been disqualified to take issue with the DPRK's legitimate step for self-defence as it has gone to the extremes in its application of double standards, by which it labels the tests carried out by the DPRK for self-defence "illegal" but keeps mum about the tests conducted by the United States and other countries.

For United Nations Member States or the United Nations Secretary-General to blindly follow the Security Council resolution, failing to discern its absurd double-dealing attitude, means that they do not properly perform their duties.

There is no paragraph in the Charter of the United Nations which specifies nuclear tests and missile test-fires as illegal. Therefore, the DPRK will never acknowledge the Security Council "resolution" which termed the DPRK's nuclear test and rocket test-fire "illegal" and will never do so in the future either.

We categorically reject the press statement of the Security Council which took issue with the right of a sovereign State to self-defence under the high-handed pressure of the United States, in utter disregard of the DPRK's just demand.